## COURT REFORMS MIGHT IMPROVE SERVICE WHILE SAVING

EFORM in the courts is no new topic for discussion in R this state. It has long been recognized that flaws existed, both in the apportionment of the courts to districts and in procedure within the courts. To some extent these errors have been corrected. In some instances errors yet remain to be righted. No doubt many of our problems are similar to those of New Mexico and Arizona in relation

United States representative Thomas L. Blanton has now begun an agitation for court reform, urging some redistricting in the state in order that courts which now have too lit-tle to do may relieve others with too much; urging also that courts be obliged to remain in session eight hours a day, five days a week and 11 months in the year, and urging, finally. the importance of making 23 changes in court procedure. Of the 23 changes suggested, four at least are worth while. As for readjusting and reapportioning the courts, judge

Blanton-for he was a district judge prior to his electionputs his case in this way:

"Texas has three supreme judges each drawing \$5000; three criminal judges each drawing \$5000; 27 civil appeals judges, each drawing \$4000. All adjourn each year about June 25, for 21-2 months continuous vacation, convening again about October 2. No work whatever is done during July, August and September. Dockets naturally congest. The vacation is too long. No sovernor, banker, preacher, lawyer, doctor, editor or merchant rests half so long.

"Texas also has about 51 district judges, each drawing \$2500, district attorneys drawing \$2455. A bill has passed

Texas also has about \$1 district judges, each drawing \$3000, district attorneys drawing \$2555. A bill has passed both house and senate increasing the salaries, so that the judges of the supreme court and court of criminal appeals will new set \$5000; the 27 judges of the court of civil appeals will get \$5000; and district judges will get \$3600; some district judges, however, to get \$5500 per annum.

"A few district judges work bard and hold court nest of the time. Many work little of the time, holding from 10 a. m. till noon and from 2 p. m. till 3. Many districts have little court business.

"The whole state needs readjusting and reapportioning judicially. If, through amending both statute and constitution where necessary, all red tape and cobwebs could be eliminated, and all courts would work eight hours per day five days each week for 11 months each year, two-thirds of the present number of district judges and district attorneys in Texas could transact all of our court business, and then the people would be willing to raise their salaries as was lately done at Austin."

So far as local conditions are concerned the criterium of

So far as local conditions are concerned, the criticism of judges having too little to do does not apply. El Paso has many district couris but they are busy almost continuously. Court vacations here range all the way from a few week to two months, depending on the state of the docket, but probably average about one month. Judges here spend an average of about seven hours a day on the bench and several hours a day of hard work in chambers. Even then the dockets of the various district courts here are usually congested. The criticism has been made that some judges might lighten the docket by greater energy in expediting the court's business, but that is a matter of opinion.

It is said that in some other parts of the state there are judicial districts, some of relatively recent creation, too, which have so little litigation at hand that the courts cannot possibly be engaged more than four or five hours a day. Such districts obviously should be enlarged, where possible, to take in enough more territory to provide the court sufficient occupation, possibly thus lightening the labors of another court thereby.

Redistricting is not an effective remedy, however, unless It be done every few years, for shifting of population and of the volume of business transactions may in a few years time either cause a court to have too much or too little to do.
Of representative Blanton's 23 suggestions for changes in

court procedure, four at least have merit. The first proposes that in civil cases, nine jurors concurring should render a verdict. It is judge Blanton's contention that this would eliminate 99 percent of the hung juries in civil cases, with the delays and expense which such deadlocks entail. The present requirement is for an agreement of all 12 jurors.

The second proposes that suspended sentence should apply only in cases in which the defendant, being under 21 years of age and charged with a first offence, pleads guilty. Judge

Blanton properly argues:

"It is ridiculous to let a hardened thug, simply because he is willing to swear he has never before been convicted, plead not guilty, fight every siep in the case, force the state to a lot of trouble and expense to convict him, and then be

turned scot free on account of a suspended sentence, simply because his past history was not locally known."

The third proposition of merit is that the state should be permitted to comment upon the defendant's failure to testify. Judge Blanton does not go into a discussion of this, but it means that at present district attorneys are not permitted to call the attention of the jury to the fact that the defendant has not been placed on the witness stand, on the theory that such directing of attention might be equivalent to making a man convict himself. However, incommend as to making a man convict himself. However, inasmuch as the failure of a defendant to testify does really create a prosumption of guilt, else there can hardly be a good reason for withholding the testimony of so important a witness, there-fore the district attorney should be allowed to comment

The fourth proposal is that state judges should be permitted when charging the jury, to make comment upon the evidence as federal judges are allowed to do. Judge Blan-

"Where defences are risiculously absurd, and in the face of controverting evidence from 20 credible witnesses, a defendant can testify to purported facts, however urballerable and unreasonable, and thereby force the court to clarge the jury on self defence, defence of others, defence of property, alibi, threats communicated, mandaughter, jurchase of stolen property, reasonable explanation of possession, and numerous other defences, and simply because such charges are given and cannot be explained or applied by the court, the jury conjures up an imagined doubt and acquite."

In the federal courts, judges are allowed, in delivering their charges, to sum up the evidence, commenting briefly on the testimony of each witness as to its apparent reliability, as to the witness's interest in the case or in the de-fendant, if any, and the judges may thus clarifly the minds of the jurors amazingly though at the same time reminding them that they are to be the sole judges of the merits of

This whole matter of court reform is not one for snap judgment. It may be that some others of representative Blanton's many suggestions have merit. But whatever changes in redistricting or in procedure are made should be carefully considered first by the bar associations and then by the legislature. There is a pronounced public sentiment that delays and outworn methods in many instances are proving, as they have long been, burdens on the public in time

### Now Is The Time

FEW days ago attention was directed to the need of the United States navy for men, since the president has directed an increase in the enlisted personnel to 87,000 men. A discrepancy exists in the number of men needed. The navy department puts the present culisted strength at 62,000 men; the navy itself at 58,000. The navy department is probably counting in several thousand men enlisted and now in training stations but not yet assigned

However, many thousands of men remain yet to be enlisted. The country is becoming aroused to the need, as lines of applicants at naval recruiting stations in other cities tes-tify. Such lines are not to be found in El Paso. In fact,

recruiting has shown little increase here.

With the imminence of war, navy officials regard it as imperative that the ranks should be quickly filled.

With the coming of warm spring, baseball players are turning from perusing the bible where, in Luke's gospel, it says: "Where are the nine?" and are obeying the injunction found in Deuteronomy: "Search you out a place to

Somehow the conviction grows that the entente would prefer one army of American dollars and another of American farmers, supplemented by tractor plows, to the best army of soldiers we could possibly raise.

If this war continues spreading over the whole world, universal training will at last come up to the full meaning

## Little Interviews

# Wants Woman's Influence, But No Woman on Board

First Automobile in El Paso One-Lung, \$600 Elgin

"Time clined board has been placefor some time," said 8.2.

Freudenthal We want to have the influence of women on the echool board
without having women on it. I have
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war a mobile tenmer. The life of the
war and would have a many there was a six horse power
with the many th

## The Movies

- ED MACK

Minute

Please

HOGWALLOW LOCALS

By GEORGE BINGHAM

would consider a periscope a great

The world is so large it is a

wonder they can get it all on one

Copyright by George Matthew Adams

At a moving

picture exhibi-

ing Billows the

other Saturday

night the detec-

tives were just about to catch the scoundrel

flew the track.

blessing.

A mud turtle



## The melting pot has begun to turn ut real Americans. - Detroit Free

a husband.

"Hatch early for size," recommends the department of agriculture, Chicks or plots:—Washington Post.

It is terrible to that in Greenland the end of a perfect day is a six months night.—Chicago Herald.

Miss Tawney Apple is back in th' box office o' Th' Fairy Grotto painted up like a candy pear. It's a cinch a girl that won't help her mother won't help

Copyright National Newspaper Service.

From Everywhere

Short Snatches

Theodore Roosevelt, as we recall re-cent history, never found it necessary to sak congress for any power.—Hos-ton Transcript.

ton Transcript.

The Germans have devised a short and easy abbreviation for "tanka" it is "scheutzengrabenangriffsmachine."

—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

The revolution in Russia is about as satisfactory to Germ my as the great revolt against president Wilson that was announced to take place hast November.—New York Herald.

Bitsma Johnson is not the first

Hiram Johnson is not the first statesman to make the disconcerting discovery that a new senator is a much bigger man in his home town than he is in Washington.—Boston Transcript.

### Roundabout Town

By ED MACK

## Still Room For a Man Who Is Willing To Work Magdalena Man Who Made \$14,000 In 14 Months

A sibilities for making money are not closed to men who are willpostmaster at Kelly, N. M., stands out prominently,

Lucero, until a year ago last December, was a clerk in a store at Kelly. By theift and hard work he had saved \$1,500. He decided to shift for himself on the first of January. 1916, and opened a little dry goods and supply ators with his \$1,500 and what credit he could get. Today-one year and two months after his beginning-the business men of the community say he could pay off all obligations and have \$12,000 cold cash to take away with him, but Lucero is ot closing out and has no idea of closing out. His last month's business was over \$7,200 and he averaged doing a business worth \$6,000 a month. Last year his tottal business was \$49,000. He has now added groceries to his stock and is the postmaster of the

Ed says there is always a chance for a man who is willing to take the chance and then work. I just kept walling for a chance to zet into busings for myself," he told A Mathias and me when we were talking to him in his store, "and when I not started I worked harder than ever. I try to see that everylody gets a dollars worth for every dollar he pands at my store; that is the secret of success—making them come bank."

The town of San Marcial, N. M., is a solidar to see the pleasing features of the chamber, proposed excursions and renewed old friendships.

C. B. Link, former secretary of the last Crusas Commercial club, is now mining near Santa Rita, N. M. He has were glad to see the new members of the chamber, taking such an interest in its work.

Just for the benefit of those whom it may concern, the Toltee club does not ballet on its officers, then have dalene" by the Indians many years ago. Ed says there is always a chance for a man who is willing to take the chance and then work. I just kept walling for a chance to get into husiness for myself, he told A Mathias and me when we were talking to him in his store, "and when I ret started I worked hurder than ever, I try to see that everybody gets a dollar's worth for every dollar he pends at my store; that is the secret of success—making them come bank."

mal boys? Didn't you see the sign 'Paint' on the door?" "No-we-we didn't," said Neddie still stuck fast in the sticky varnish. "We were going to play an April fool joke on you-pretending we were rugs, but.—"

"But now the joke is on you," laughed Uncle Wiggily. But, never mind. The painter man left some turnentine, after he finished varnishing the floor, so I'll soon melt you losse, and the hunny uncle did, for turpentine softens varnish.

softens varnish.

The fur of Neddis, Juckle and Peetle was quite sticky, even after they were lossed from the newly varnished floor, but it were off after a few days. And they said they would not play any more april lokes. But if the animal crackers don't jump through the coffee strainer and make the egg beater sit down in the teaper next you shall hear about Unice Wignily and the rain—Copyright, 1917, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

BY G. A. MARTIN.

a foot below the level of the river, which runs nearby. The result is that the water seem in under the town and they have to have ditches to carry it off, class they would have to cance about the town as the inhabitants of Venice do.

If you have any spare money, put it into theep. Colonel James H. McClintock told us at Phoenix the other day that a flock of 1000 sheep is worth at the present price of mutton, and a flock of ewes will double in a year and the wool of the mothers is worth a good deal itself.

I monument has been erected at the foot propers of the late Pep, Push and Progress train believes in prepared.

I monument has been erected at the foot propers of the late Pep, Push and Progress train believes in prepared.

A. J. Strayer is in Dayton, Ohio,

worth a good deal liself.

A monument has been erected at the Grand Canyon by act of congress in hotor of Major John Wesley Powell, who in 1882 and 1812 made the first trip of exploration down the canyon. The monument is of limestone, surmounted by a copper tablet bearing a likeness of Major Powell and an inscription to the effect that it was resched by act of congress. Nearby, a menument of marble has been erected by the Flarstaff lodge of Masons commemorating a ceremontal held by Phoenix logge on and is the curyon in 2013. Both manuments are on Markopa point.

Arisons prepared.

A. J. Strayer is in Dayton, Ohio, telling them what he did in the marer of for the present year. All salesmen during the past year and getting a line on how many registers he can get hold of for the present year, All salesmen of the company are there in convention. The Dayton Journal prints a carricature of A. J. as one of the members of the National's "One Hundred Per Cent Club."

Per Cent Club.

A. L. Meredith, who used to sell insurance in El Paso, is now cheep ranching near Magdalena, N. M. and likes it. He met the El Pasoana on their recent excursion to Magdalena and renewed old friendships.

### LETTERS to THE HERALD

ETOPIA NOT IN YECATAN.

Editor Et Passe Herald:

In one of your recent issues I notice an article headed "Riopian Conditions in the Mexican State of Yucatan."

I was shocked to see such an article in prior, especially as it is written without any responsibility for the irith. Mildly speaking, it is gross injustice and I sincerely wish that some one would write a true and unbiased article about comparative conditions in Ynestan.

Paul Konz.

'The Herald stated that the article was made up of extincts from an article published in the New York Times, mostly given over 10 another the man the Times credited as responsible for the facts.—Editor.)

## CASHIER OF BORDER NATIONAL

)" E Beecher will be the assistant

Circuses Make More Money When Towns Are 'Dry' Than When 'Wel'

(All communications must bear the thrive letter in probibition comunities than in "west" cities, W. H. Rice, a circus man, said in an address before the "Dry" Chicago federation last in which.

the light night.
"Dry" Scattle netted one circus \$9710 as compared to \$2120 when the town was "wet," he said.
"The theuland. Ore, the increase was "In Portland, Ore, the increase was from \$3264 to \$8206."

GRAND JURY ADJOURNS; NO REPORT: JUDGE DECLINES IT

The grand jury for the March term of the Sith district court adjourned Thursday night, after having been diligently at work for several weeks.

gently at work for several weeks.

No report was made by the jury, most the instructions of judge W. D. Howe, who said that, according to his construction of the law it is the dury of the grand jury only to investigate and return indictments, not to make recommendations to the court or to public officials. This puts a stop to a custom that has been prevalent in the courts of El Paso and other Texas districts as far as the memory of the old-timers run.

The members of the grand jury were.

The members of the grand jury were.

J. C. Wilmarth foreman: H. S. Beach,
Joe Zelman, H. S. Potter, S. C. Awbrey.

H. W. Broaddus, Slanley Bevan, W. W.
Carroll, W. F. Payne, W. H. Shelton, F.

D. Porcher and Robert Lander.

Queen Suphie of Grooce heads all of the collet work in her country.

EL PASO HERALD
DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT NO GOOD CAUSE
SHALL LACK A CHAMPION, AND THAT EVIL SHALL
NOT THRIVE UNOPPOSED,
College DWDer, has directed The Herald for 19 years: NOT THRIVE UNOPPOSED.

II. D. Sinter, editor and controlling owner, has directed The Herald for 19 years:

J. C. Wilmarth is Manager and G. 4 Martin is News Editor.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS, AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, AND AUDIT BUBEAU OF CIRCULATIONS. AN INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER. The El Pano Herald was established in March, 1881. The El Pano Herald includes also by absorption and succession. The Daily News, The Telegraph. The Telegram, The Tribune. The Graphic The Sun, The Advertiser, The Independent, The Journal The Republican. The Bulletin

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wurzy, the muskrat lady housekeeper, as she gave the hunny rabbit his breakfast in his hollow stump bungatiow, just before he was about to start out for his daily adventure.

And about this same time Neddle Stubtail, the little bear boy, with Jackie and Pectile Bow Wow, the two puppy dog boys, were whispering together behind the cave where lived Mr. Whitewash, the polar bear. "Won't it be a good joke!" said Neddle, laughing.

out for his daily adventure.

"Look out for myself—why?" Uncle
Wiggly wanted to know. "Is anything
special going to happen."

"You never can tell." answered Nurse
Jane. "You know tomorrow is the "You know tomorrow is the "Oh, now I understand?" eried the outning gentleman, "Some one may play tricks or jokes on me."
"Exactly," said Nurse Jane, "So watch out."

"Exactly," said Nurse lank.

"Til watch out." promised Uncle
Wiggily, and away he hopped through
the woods, looking for an adventure.
But I am sorry to say, he had none
worth writing about. True, he found
some little violets joust peeping up in
the green more, and he took them to
Aunt Lettle, the nice old lady goat
who had to have one of her horns
pulled out. But that was hardly an
adventure.

"Yes, I guess I did," spoke the little
bear boy, but he was not at all proud.
"Of course," he said, "it won't be April

Noddle."

"That's so. Well, Nurse Jane is coming over to our house today to help my mother sew a bed quilt, so no one will be at the hellow stump bungalow. We can craw! In the window, spread ourselves out on the floor, and whon Uncle Wiggly comes in he'll think we're black fur rugs that Nurse Jane has bought as a surprise for him, and be'll be so astonished he'll jump over his ears."

## The Spectre

AST night when I had gone to rest, a ghost came to my side; it was the most astounding guest that ever man espied; it wouldn't go at my behest, but watched me, fieryeyed. Before last night I used to scoff at ghostly things of dread; I laughed to scorn the timid toff who said he'd heard their tread, and told him where he might get off, and where to soak his head. But, oh, the horror of last night I shall not soon forget! I lay and gazed in mortal fright and gozed all kinds of sweat; that ghost, aglow with bluish light, was something fierce, you bet. How long 'twas there I do not know—it seemed to me 10 years—and through my soul I felt the flow of grim and icy fears; at last I saw the phantom go, back to its misty spheres. Then I arose and said, "By heck, no more will I eat pie, no more consume of shrimps a peck, ere to my couch I bie; I'd surely be a mental wreck, if more such ghosts were nigh!"

Copyright, by George Matthew Adams

WALT MASON.

Prior To That Year Business Stopped At Oregon

the growth of the town has been phenomenal. In 1880 El Paso was not as much of a village as Ysleta is today. Of course with the coming of the railroads there was an influx of new prople and in 1900 the place had evolved ate a country town with a population of probably 4,500 Americans and quite a number of Mexicans. But in 1991 El Paso began to expand into a city and real estate values began to climb.

"In 1884 Doc Manning owned the east end of the block lying between San Antonio and Texas streets and bounded on the east by Mesa avente.

Manning's property extended two fact west on San Antonio street from the little Caples building and the same distance west on Texas street from the Rio Grande Valley bank building and fronted east on Mesa avenue. Pets bern and myself were offered this property for \$2,500, and we went to look it over, but could not find Mesa avenue and Texas street. Today that property is worth close to a million dollars and with decent buildings on it would pay an annual income of over \$100,000. But asside from the bank

"WHEN we remember," said building and the little Capies building the property is occupied by the standard that do not represent a total investment of \$40,000, and yet they are paying more than \$50,000 in annual rentals.

ment of \$40,000, and yet they are paying more than \$50,000 in annual rentals.

Once Makes Adobes in Texas Street.

Mr. Look says that at the time the property was offered him for \$1,500 Es Paso and San Autonio streets were the only streets here. The acequia then crossed Texas attest at the file Grande bank corner and Mr. Look made adobes in Texas attest at that corner to repair an old adobe house located where the Buckler block stands. Mr. Look remembers distincily that an adobe residence on the northwest corner of San Antonio and Mesa jutted out into the street where the little Caples building now stands.

thinese Occupy Federal Building Site.

in Texas street at that corner to repair an old adobe house located where the Buckler block stands. Mr. Look remembers distinctly that an adobe residence on the northwest corner of San Antonio and Mesa juited out into the street where the little Caples building now stands.

In 1856 the northeast corner of San Antonio and Oregon streets was on the market at \$40 per front foot. J. R. Currie bought it and exected thereon the present two-snory exick recently vacated by Bryan Bros. and that property is now worth many times that sum, but it could have been bought in 1801 for \$200 per front foot.

Grist Will on Piencer Plans.

The San Antonio street front of the present handsome building of the First National bank was occupied in 185 by a row of adobe bouses with hig cot fonwood trees in front of them. In the return was a corral, extends the first side of the street multi 1890, nice butcher slopes resturants, two sales of the street multi 1890, nice butcher slopes resturants, two sales of the street multi 1890, nice butcher slopes resturants, two sales of the street multi 1890, nice butcher slopes resturants, two sales of the street multi 1890, nice butcher slopes resturants, two sales of the street multi 1890, nice butcher slopes resturants, two sales of the street multi 1890, and a multinery slope and a plumbing step opened on the courty for the first street at the walls of which ran the aregula. This aregula crossed El Paso street at the city National bank corner, and at that

Stanton, Texas, March 20. Editor El Paso Herald:

El Paso's Real Development Dates From 1901

## F. E. BEECHFR IS ASSISTANT

Texas and Stanton. He was for several

### cashler of the Border National bank; which will open its doors for business in few days in the Haynolds building.